SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 5 JULY 2020

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by ..... [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and in English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio and text bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za. To join the bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

ZS5 SPRINT THIS AFTERNOON

ICASA extends THE grace period for amateur radio licence renewalS

and

COMMEMORATIVE SSTV TRANSMISSIONS ON 18 JULY 2020

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

We begin this bulletin with the news of two silent keys:

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of Servaas Wahl, ZS6SER of Louis Trichardt went silent on Friday 24 April 2020. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of Gwen Thompson, ZS1MGT of Ashton went silent on Friday 26 June 2020 after a long struggle with cancer. We extend our sincere condolences to her husband Bev, ZS1BEV, their two sons, cousin Errol, ZS6KED, family and friends.

PAUSE

ZS5 SPRINT THIS AFTERNOON

The ZS5 Sprint is on the air this afternoon from 14:00 to 15:00 UTC this with phone and CW activity on 40 meters. ZS5 stations will give an RS or RST report and the name or abbreviation of their town. All other stations will give an RS or RST report and their provincial or country abbreviation. Your logs can be sent by Monday 13 July 2020 to zs5contest@harc.org.za

ICASA extends THE grace period for amateur radio licence renewalS

Following discussions with ICASA, ICASA has informed the SARL that no amateur radio licenses expired on 30 June 2020. The grace period has been extended by several weeks to allow payment. ICASA still operates the old

system in parallel with the new online system which is still in its Beta testing phase.

ICASA informed the SARL that invoices have been mailed. Although some amateurs have reported that they have received an invoice, there will be delays in some areas due to the huge postal backlog caused by the lockdown. It would therefore not be necessary to register on the new online system. You may pay the license fee without the invoice, your just need your licence number. In SARL News for Sunday 28 June, the licence fee and banking details are given.

SARL TO MEET WITH ICASA

The SARL has requested a meeting with the CEO and acting Chairman of ICASA to discuss a number of issues that have arisen and to review the current Memorandum of Agreement which as a result of many technology advancements, no longer meets the requirements.

THE RaDAR CHALLENGE ON 11 JULY

The second RaDAR Challenge for 2020 takes place from 00:00 UTC to 23:59 UTC on Saturday 11 July 2020 with each RaDAR operator defining their own operating time schedule of a maximum, single period, four hour time slot. CW, SSB, FM or any legal amateur radio digital mode can be used on all amateur bands including cross band contacts via amateur radio satellites. The exchange is your call sign, your name, a RS, RST or RSQ report and your grid locator. Get all the information on page 27 of the Blue Book.

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

IARU HF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The IARU HF World Championship will take place on the weekend of 11 and 12 July 2020. The ZS9HQ call sign is usually used but this year the ZS95SARL call sign will be used. If you are able to take part, please put your call sign on the roster at https://drive.google.com/file/d/16Zft4OtluxRQC5is6YscsCqBtTi3NX-j/view?usp=sharing. If there are any questions please contact Geoff Levey, ZS6C at contest@sarl.org.za. The contest rules may be found at www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship

COMMEMORATIVE SSTV TRANSMISSIONS ON 18 JULY 2020

On 18 July 2020, the Secunda Amateur Radio Club - ZS6SRC will commemorate the SARL's 95 years of existence. Starting at 02:00 UTC on Saturday 18 July 2020 until 02:00 UTC on Sunday 19 July 2020, the club using the ZS95SARL call sign will be transmitting a series of images in SSTV B/W8 mode via the LEO FM satellites that pass Secunda at more than 10 degrees elevation during the period. The following satellites will be used: SO-50, AO-91, AO-92 and PO-101.

Please setup your receivers to share in this activity. All received images can be e-mailed to secradio@jenny.co.za. We will upload them to our website

www.secradio.org.za.

Every participant who e-mails their images will receive a certificate, there are special certificates for the youth members who participate. Let us have some fun!

The SARL is playing a huge role in keeping our hobby alive in these very uncertain times.

CONTEST RESULTS

Three logs from the Youth and sixteen logs from the not so young were received for the first leg of the SARL Youth Sprint. A special word of thanks to Theunis Potgieter, ZS2EC who invited two youngsters to his shack to participate in the Sprint!

1st Alistair Skudder (18), ZS6S - 20 points

2nd Jadeed Stemmet (13), ZS2ZU and Mishkaat Stemmet (17), ZS2ZU - 10 points each (operating under the supervision of Theunis, ZS2EC)

Fifty-two logs were submitted for the third leg of the SARL 95 40 m Club Sprint, with 3 logs indicating no club, 1 log with no name or club and 1 blank log! 836 QSOs were made and 366 grid squares were worked.

1st the West Rand ARC - 1 122 points (26 logs)

2nd the Bo-Karoo ARC - 468 points (7 logs)

3rd the Hibiscus ARC - 214 points (5 logs)

4th PEARS - 166 points (2 logs)

The results were published in HF Happenings 906, available from the League web site.

Twenty one logs were received for the SARL Top Band QSO Party, this included 1 check log. 697 QSOs were made in total with 105 unique call signs. The full results are on the SARL website.

1st Kobus Boshoff, ZS6BOS - 242 points

2nd Lukas Holtzhausen, ZS6LH - 239 points

3rd Johan van Zijl, ZS4DZ - 221 points

Congratulations to Kobus Boshoff

No propagation report was received for the week ahead!

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

today – the ZS5 Sprint

11 July – the RaDAR Challenge

11 and 12 July – the IARU HF Championships

15 July – the SARL Wednesday 80 m Club Sprint

18 July – the Winter QRP Contest

19 July – the ZS2 Sprint

25 and 26 July – the Islands on the Air Contest

2 Aug – the SARL HF Phone Contest

To conclude our bulletin, a quick overview of our main news item:

The ZS5 Sprint is on the air this afternoon from 14:00 to 15:00 UTC this with phone and CW activity on 40 meters. ZS5 stations will give an RS or RST report and the name or abbreviation of their town. All other stations will give an RS or RST report and their provincial or country abbreviation. Your logs can be sent by Monday 13 July 2020 to zs5contest@harc.org.za

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio program, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 Central African Time. The program can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower sideband. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 Central African Time on 3 620 kHz. We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Andy Cairns, ZS6ADY, edited by Paul Johnson ZS1S and read by .....

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.